AN ACT

OF

Common-Councell

MADE

The sixth of October 1646. Alderman *Adams* Major.

For reformation of sundry abuses practised by divers Persons in the Common-Markets and Streets of the City of London.

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AN ACT

OF

Common-Council

BRITISH MUSEUM

The Lawes of the Market.

ADAMS Major.

WHereas several good Laws and Ordinances have been heretofore made, as well by the Court of Lord Maior and Aldermen, as by this Court, for the wel-ordering of the Markets of the City of London, for the redresse of severall abuses of Butchers, Victuallers, & others thereunto resorting, for sale of their Flesh victuals, and other Commodities in the severall Markets of this City, and assigning places and times for the said Markets to be kept and held: Which said Laws and Ordinances by daily experience are found not effectual to prevent some present and growing inconveniences, nor have wrought

that good effect, as was intended thereby.

For redreſſe whereof, be it enacted by the Right Honorable the Lord Maior, Aldermen, and Commons in Common-councell aſſembled, and by authority of the ſame, That no Butcher or Country Farmer, Victualler, or other perſon or perſons whatſoever, either free of the City of London, or not free of the ſaid City, from and after the firſt day of December next, after the publication of this Act, ſhall ſell, utter, or put to open ſhew or ſale in the Streets or White-markets within this City, that is to ſay, Leaden-hall ſtreet without the Hall, Cheapſide and Newgate-market, any Beef upon pain that every perſon or perſons that from and after the time aforeſaid, ſhall ſell, utter, put to ſale, or ſhew in any of the ſaid Markets any Beef, ſhall forfeit and loſe

Twenty

Twenty shillings for every time so offending or doing contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, And further be it enacted by authority aforesaid, that all and every Butcher, free, or not free of the City of London, who keepeth no Butcher Shop or Shops within the said City and Liberties thereof, or within two miles distance of the Liberties thereof, shall, and may sell, utter, shew, and put to sale, his, or their Beef, Mutton, Veal, Lamb, Pork, and other Butchery ware, at certain stalls and places in that behalf appointed in Leaden-hall and the Greenyard there, and that onely upon Wednesdays and Saturdays weekly, and not in any other place or places within the said City of London and Liberties thereof, upon pain that every such Butcher or Butchers who shall sell, utter, or put to sale, or shew any Beef,

Mutton, Veal, Lambe, Pork, or any other Butchery ware in any other place or places within the City of London, or Liberties thereof, then in Leadenhall and the Greenyard there, shall for every such offence or doing forfeit Twenty shillings. And whereas of late times, many of the stalls and standings within Leadenhall and the Greenyard there, have, and yet are in the occupations of severall persons who are not Butchers by Trade, nor use or exercise the Trade of a Butcher, who let them out at dear rates to others; And likewise many of the said stalls are in the possession of Butchers who live within the City of London and Liberties thereof, who keep the said Stalls and likewise their Shops, By means of which said doings, the Country Butchers, and other Butchers who keep no Shops within the said City, or within two

miles

mites of the Liberties of the City of London, and would furnish the said Markets with Butchery ware, can get no convenient room there, and so are necessitated to sell and utter their Commodities in the Whitemarkets and other places, or to forbear the Markets, whereby prices are inhaunsed and the said Market disfurnished.

For remedy whereof, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the ground where the standings and places for sale and uttering of Flesh and Butchery ware within Leadenhall and the Greenyard there, be resumed and taken into the Cities hands and actual possession, before the said first day of December next ensuing.

And further that no Stall, standing, or place within Leadenhall or the Greenyard there, shall from thenceforth be letten or farmed out unto

any

any Butcher or Butchers, who doth, or shall keep any Butchershop or shops within the City of London or Liberties thereof, or within two miles of the Liberties of the said City, for so long time as he, or they shall keep any Butchers shop within the Limits aforesaid.

And that from thenceforth the Stals, standings, and places in Leadenhall and the Greenyard there, be let unto Country Butchers, or such freemen who are Butchers, and keep not any Butcher shop or shops within the City of London and Liberties thereof, or within two miles distance of the Liberties of the said City, and for so long time only as he or they shall furnish the said stalls, standings, and places with wholsome Beef, Mutton, Veal, Lamb, Pork, or other Butchery ware upon Wednesdays and Saturdays, being the usuall Market

dayes

daies there, in his or their own rights and not as Servant or Apprentice to others.

And further, That no Butcher whatsoever shall have and enjoy more then one stall, standing, or place within Leadenhall or the Greenyard there at one time.

Provided alwayes that the Butchers Freemen of the City of London, shall and may at all times convenient sell, utter, shew, and put to sale their flesh and Butchery wares in their Shops within the said City of London and Liberties thereof, as formerley they have done and accustomed; any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided that the Country Farmer, Lader, or Kidder, as to all wholsome flesh victuals and other Commodities except Beef, may have liberty to sell, shew and utter the same in the Common and publique

ſtone Whyte-markets within the City of London and Liberties thereof in Market times: this Act, or any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithſtanding.

And forasmuch as of late the forain Butchers, Victuallers, and other people reſorting to the Markets of the City of London to ſell their fleſh victuals and other Commodities, do continue and keep their Markets all the day, and untill night, not obſerving the hours appointed for their departure by former Acts and Ordinances, To the end the ſtreets may in due time be cleanſed for the health of the Inhabitants of thoſe places, which doing of theirs tendeth much to the diſorder of the ſaid Markets (peſtering the ſtreets where thoſe markets are kept) inhaunſing the prices of Commodities, diſturbance and hinderance of Paſſengers and Tradeſmen

desmen dwelling near the said places, and by reason thereof the streets cannot be cleaned as they ought to be, to the scandall of the Government of the City of London and is very necessary to be reformed.

And whereas it is pretended, that the formerly appointed times for saling of the Markets is too short, by reason whereof the parties repairing thereto cannot have sufficient time to sell off their Commodities: To the end therefore that such persons may have a convenient time to vend their Commodities, and be rendered without trouble and that there might be also a convenient time afterward for cleansing of the streets;

It is enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Market-bell in the severall Markets within the City of London shall ring twice every

ry market day (that is to say) the first ringing (from the five and twentieth day of March yearly, untill the twenty ninth day of September) at seven of the clock before noon; and from the twenty ninth day of September yearly, untill the five and twentieth day of March at eight of the clock before noon, and not before: And that before that time no person or persons shall sell, shew, or put to sale his flesh, victuals, or other Commodities.

And that the second ringing of the said market-bell in the severall markets aforesaid, for raising of the said Markets, shall begin to ring, from, and after the five and twentieth day of March yearly, untill the twenty ninth day of September yearly, half an hour after four of the clock in the afternoon, and to continue ringing till five of the clock: And from & after the twenty ninth

day

day of September untill the five and twentieth day of March, to begin to ring half an hour after two of the clock, and to continue ringing till three of the clock in the afternoon, And that no Butcher and Butchers, or other market people whatsoever resorting to any publique or Common-market within the City of London or Liberties thereof, shall utter, sell, or put to open shew or sale any flesh, victuals, or other Commodities whatsoever in the said Markets that day after the end of the ringing of the said bell, but shall immediately after the said bell hath done ringing as aforesaid, depart from the said markets, upon pain that every person or persons who shall offend, or do contrary to this clause of this Act, shall forfeit the summe of Ten shillings for every time offending or doing contrary to this clause of this Act.

And

And forasmuch as the market is most principally intended for the benefit of Housekeepers, who buy for their own use and behoof. It is further enacted by Authority aforesaid, That at the beginning of the ringing of the market bell for raising of the said market, and during the time of the ringing thereof, the Retailers and Traders of this City who buy to sell again, may lawfully enter into the said severall Markets or any of them, and make their Provisions, and buy the remainder of the said markets, and carry the same to their severall Houses and Shops, and not before, upon pain that every such Retailer or Retailers or Traders, who shall buy any Commoditie in the said markets to sell again, before the ringing of the market bell for raising of the said markets as aforesaid, contrary to the intent of this

clause

clause of this Act, shall forfeit for every time Forty shillings.

And forasmuch as all dead flesh-meat ought be sold in open & common markets, and not to be carryed up and down, and sold by way of Hawking; by means whereof much unwholsome Meat hath been vended and sold, to the great deceit of the buyer thereof, and prejudice of the Common-wealth: And whereas by the Custome of this City, such flesh and other things hawked are become forfeited; It is enacted by Authority aforesaid, That no Butcher or other person or persons whatsoever shall sell, utter, or offer to put to sale by way of Hawking or as a Hawker, any manner of flesh whatsoever, in any Street or Lane, Ayne, or other place or places within this City of London or Liberties thereof, but onely in his or their open Shop or Shops, Stall

or

of Stalls, or in the usual Market place or places, and in Market time onely, upon paine of forfeiture of all such flesh so carryed or offered to be put to sale by way of Hawking without any manner of favour, according to the ancient Custome of the City of London used and approved.

And whereas divers Inhabitants dwelling in, or neer unto the severall market places aforesaid, do exact and take severall summes of money of the Country people who bring victuall to the said severall markets, for, & under pretence that it is in their power to hinder such market people from standing in the Markets before their doors to sell their victuall; which pretence of theirs is utterly against Law, for that they have no power to hinder any the market people from standing or sitting in the said Markets:

be it declared and Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no such person or persons dwelling or inhabiting in, or near any of the said Markets; or other person or persons whatsoever, other then the Clerks of the severall Markets, Beadles, and other persons for their ancient Fees, Duties and Allowances usually paid and taken, shall from henceforth directly or indirectly take, require or exact any summe or summes of money, or other thing or things, of any person or persons bringing any victuall or other Commodities or Provisions to the said Markets to be sold, for, and in respect of any such place, standing, or setting in the said severall Markets, upon paine that every person or persons who after publication of this Act, shall exact, require, or take any such Summe or summes of money or other thing or reward, shall

forfeit and lose for every time so doing and offending Twenty shillings. And it is the true intent and meaning of this Act, That in the White-markets no Bag or Bags of straw be used or permitted, nor any Boards for that purpose, but such as shall not be above one Ell in length, and half an Ell in breadth, upon pain of six shillings eight pence to be forfeited by any person or persons for every time he or they shall do or offend against this clause of this Act.

And it is thought fit for the more convenience of the Markets and market people, for the shew and sale of their victuall, that such Boards as aforesaid may be used; and if any the market people aforesaid shall desire to use any such Boards provided by any of the Clerks of the severall Markets, that then such Clerk of the severall Markets shall

not take for any such board above Two pence for one market day.

Provided alwayes, this Act nor any thing therein contained, shall extend unto such person or persons who shall bring Peasods, Strawberries, Rasberries, Roses, or suche to the markets or streets of the City of London to sell, but that he or they may stay, & tarry longer time then is before expressed, if they see occasion; so as the same persons that bring them first to market do continue the selling thereof, and do not transfer them to any Huckster or Retailer to sell the same, any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted that all and every Act and Ordinance heretofore made for the regulating and wel-governing of the markets within the City of London, not being contrary to this present Act, shall

stand & be in their former strength and force, any thing in this Act notwithstanding.

All which paines, forfeitures and penalties, fines and summes of money to be forfeited by vertue of this Act, shall be recovered by action of Debt, Bill, or Plaint to be commenced and prosecuted in the name of the Chamberlain of the City of London for the time being, in the Court holden before the Maior and Aldermen in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, wherein no Essoin or wager of Law shall be admitted or allowed for the Defendant. And that the Chamberlain of the said City for the time being in all suits to be prosecuted by vertue of this Act against any Offendor or Offendors contrary to the same, shall recover the ordinary costs of suit to be expended in and about the prosecution thereof. And if the suit

paſſe for the Defendant, then the ſaid Defendant to recover his coſts. And that the Chamberlain for the time being ſhall not have power to take leſſe of any Offendor, then herein is limited to be forfeited for every offence.

And further, That one moity of all forfeitures to be recovered by vertue hereof, (the coſts of the ſuit for recovery of the ſame being deducted) ſhall after recovery and receipt thereof, at, or before the twenty fift day of March yearly be paid and delivered to the Treaſurer of Chriſts Hoſpitall, to be imployed toward the relief of the poor children to be brought up and maintained in that Hoſpitall: And the other moity to him or them which ſhall firſt give information of the offences for which the forfeitures ſhall grow, and proſecute ſuite in the name of the Chamberlain of the ſaid City for

for recovery of the same, any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

FINIS.